

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06698 070229Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883
INFO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CAT, UN
SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER (CAT) RESTRAINT AND THE
SSOD

REF: STATE 87919

1. WE CONVEYED VIEWS PROVIDED REFTEL APRIL 6 TO BELGIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH ARMAMENT AND DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS,
PIERRE CHAMPENOIS.

2. CHAPENOIS SAID THAT BELGIUM FULLY AGREES WITH NEED TO PROCEED
CAUTIOUSLY AND WITH FULLEST CONSULTATIONS ON SENSITIVE ISSUE OF
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. HE ALSO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IS VERY
IMPORTANT. BELGIUM COULD AGREE WITH "REALISTIC FORMULAS," EVEN IF
THEY ARE FAR-REACHING.

B. NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, ARE CLEARLY MORE
INTERESTED IN PUSHING FOR NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL, AND WILL STRONGLY
ADVANCE THEIR CASE. THEIR IS A LIMIT TO WHAT THEY WILL ACCEPT
ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS ISSUE.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06698 070229Z

C. BELGIUM HAS ADVANCED THE IDEA OF A REGIONAL APPROACH,
I.E. SELF-RESTRAINT ON A REGIONAL BASIS, AS BEING MORE DEMOCRATIC.
BELGIUM COULD ACCEPT, HOWEVER, A MIXTURE OF TWO METHODS, I.E.
RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND RESTRAINT BY SUPPLIERS

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D. BELGIUM DOES NOT LIKE, HOWEVER, THE TERM "RESTRAINT".

IT IS TOO VAGUE AND HAS A "GOOD GUYS VS BAD GUYS" CONNOTATION.
AN AGREED DEFINITION OF "RESTRAINT" IS NEEDED.

3. SUMMARIZING, CHAMPENOIS REPEATED THAT SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL
ARMS TRANSFERS IS IMPORTANT, SAID THAT TRANSFERS MUST BE TREATED IN
CAREFUL MANNER, AND AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A GLOBAL APPROACH TO
PROBLEM ON PART OF SUPPLIERS. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ARMS, ALLIANCE, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvwe.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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